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# The Daily Gamecock, MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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The Mix  
Colbie Caillat hits the  
Koger Center stage  
tonight for USC students.  
See page 7

Sports The softball team 's hot streak went cold this weekend. See page 10



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# The Daily Gamecock

dailygamecock.com

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008

VOL. 101, NO. 120 ● SINCE 1908

## S.C. Senate faces budget trouble

*\$90 million shortage  
forces state to make cuts  
to program spending*

Jim Davenport  
The Associated Press

Remember the law passed last year that requires South Carolina to buy new school buses to help keep children safe and update one of the nation's oldest bus fleets? Consider it suspended. How about plans for a steady stream of cash to lure the nation's top researchers to the state with their projects? Trimmed to a trickle.

And money to promote tourism that has long been the state's cash cow? On vacation.

Soaring fuel costs and other national financial problems that have soured the state's economy have morphed the \$7 billion state budget set for debate this week into a litany of broken promises.

The biggest? The state's promise to use a 15-year replacement cycle for buses at a cost of about \$30 million a year. The House put up nearly \$20 million for that, using money from a reserve account that hasn't been needed in years to cover major year-end budget shortfalls.

But the Senate Finance Committee last week dumped the new school bus money after getting news it needed to cover a projected \$90 million revenue shortfall this year and slice another



Mary Ann Chastain / The Associated Press

**Kenny Boatwright talks about his school bus fleet in Lexington which under a South Carolina law passed just last year would need to be updated and/or completely replaced to help keep children safe.**

\$90 million from spending for the budget year that begins July 1.

The Senate opted to tap the reserve fund for \$20 million for fuel for the buses the state does have, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hugh Leatherman said.

The state Education Department's transportation director, who manages the statewide school bus system,

said the agency still needs \$9 million for rising fuel costs.

Even though the agency doesn't pay federal or state taxes on its fuel, an average increase of \$1 a gallon since August has added nearly \$13 million in costs.

Director Donald Tudor is wondering how he'll keep the fleet fueled. "You can't cut \$9 million," Tudor said.

But that's far from the only

cut in next year's budget.

Leatherman's committee also nixed raises for state workers.

"I didn't care about the raise," said Kenny Boatwright, who runs a fleet of 243 buses for Lexington District 1 and District 2. "What hurt me more than anything else was when they said we're not going to get any new school buses."

Boatwright showed a reporter one of the buses state money bought last year. It has emergency exits on the roof, sides and back, and even warns drivers with a blaring horn if they step out without checking to make sure a child hasn't fallen asleep on the bus.

"We're not hauling

**BUDGET ● 3**



Lizzy Sheppard / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

**Members of the costume contest perform on stage.**

## NashiCon draws 200 to Carolina in first year

*USC's anime club  
hosts first convention  
at Gambrell Hall*

Thomas Maluck  
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

When people look for an anime convention in the Southeast, they generally go to Raleigh, N.C., or Atlanta.

Nashi, USC's anime club, has put Columbia on the map with its inaugural convention, NashiCon. The event, featuring a combination of Japanese animation, video games, costume aficionados, panelists and artists, was speculated to attract around 40 to 60 people, mainly USC students.

However, Nashi's flyers and online advertisements on convention and anime forums spread the word about NashiCon, resulting in a registered guest count of more than 200 people.

Attendees arrived from various parts of the state, including Myrtle Beach, Charleston and Savannah's College of Art and Design in Savannah, Ga. Gaggles of high school students attended, their various anime clubs in the state having waited for a large-scale event like this to use as a field trip.

Kimberly Poulter, a fourth-year theater student at USC and assistant to NashiCon's director, said she sees all of this as the club's goals coming to fruition.

In the face of a sinking budget and shrinking membership, "Let's prove to USC that we can do something big," Poulter said.

She said she recognizes the broad appeal NashiCon has.

"We're not just a bunch of basement-dwelling geeks," Poulter said. "We're very diverse in interest — lots of different walks of life like this particular subculture."

The event was hosted in Gambrell, which afforded an advantage to NashiCon over other conventions: no overhead fees.

Since the event was sanctioned by USC and Gambrell was free to use, the only cost of the event to attendees was \$2 at the door for non-students, and even that covered snacks

**CONVENTION ● 3**

## Group protests Scientology

*'Anonymous' gathers  
in Georgia, agrues  
with Church's beliefs*

Sean Gruber  
STAFF WRITER

Anne, known as Ether Cat on Internet message boards, didn't care about Scientology until her friend became a member in the 80s.

Twenty years later, she's giving a speech under an assumed name to a group of protesters wearing suits, surgical masks and sunglasses. Through the years, her purpose hasn't changed — she just wants her friend back.

"I would ask him, if they had all the answers, why aren't they just giving them away," Anne said as she spoke to the assembled group. "He would get angry, angry to the point that he was on the edge of violence."

Anne said this was when she became a public critic of Scientology.

"He told me that he could be my friend if [I] stopped my criticizing. I told him I just couldn't turn around and shut up, she said. "My letter of disconnection arrived a week later."

Anne would never talk

to her friend again.

"I'm saying this in the hopes that you'll hear this, even though I don't think you will," Anne said. "I just want you to come back."

Anne was one of the 200 protesters that gathered in front of the Church of Scientology in DeKalb County, just outside Atlanta.

The protest centered around Scientology's policy of "disconnection," where Scientologists are separated from family members and friends that are critical or distrustful of the church.

The protest was organized by the Internet based group "Anonymous," which originated on several message boards and chat rooms.

Most of the protesters, fearing harassment from Scientologists, wore masks, face paint and wigs to disguise themselves, and referred to themselves with nicknames.

The Church of Scientology branded "Anonymous" a "cyber terrorist" group and has described the protests as "religious bigotry." The Church of Scientology was founded in 1953 by L. Ron Hubbard, a

science fiction author. The group has been declared unconstitutional in Germany.

Protesters dispute these claims, saying that their protests have been peaceful and that they have no problem with the belief system, but with the church's practices.

Amy Camp, a fourth-year criminal justice student at USC, attended the protests with a small group of USC students.

"Being a criminal

justice major, I am shocked about the amount of things that the Church of Scientology gets away with," Camp said. "It's disgusting. The only way to call attention to this is through protesting."

Camp said the Church and some of Scientology's policies are the main reason for her attending the protest.

"Take the 'fair game policy.' It authorizes

**PROTEST ● 3**

Sean Gruber / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

**"Anonymous" protesters cover their faces with masks and body paint to avoid harassment.**





Local

**ISLE OF PALMS** — The state and property owners along the eroding beach at Wild Dunes have agreed to a fine of \$18,000 for the thousands of sandbags that ended up littering the coast and marshes after storms last spring.

The Ocean and Coastal Resource Management agency initially told property owners in June 2007 they could be fined \$1,000 a day when the small sandbags used to reduce erosion got washed away in storms and were strewn along the entire South Carolina coast.

But property owners countered that they were told by the agency to use the small sandbags.

“They wanted it over with. We wanted it over with,” said John O’Hare, an owner and homeowner’s association president at one of a half-dozen complexes that agreed to the payment.

“It’s a negotiated settlement because I told them we would not pay a fine because we hadn’t done anything wrong.”

Dan Burger, a spokesman for Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, told The Post and Courier of Charleston in an e-mail that the settlement reflected property owners’ efforts to clean up the mess.

The Coastal Conservation League disagrees.

“These sandbags littered our beaches and creeks from Georgia to the North Carolina line,” said league spokeswoman Nancy Vinson. “The minimum fine for littering in South Carolina is \$200. Yet these condo owners, who were repeatedly warned and ordered to remove these sandbags, are fined just 18 cents per bag.

National

**NEW YORK** — Author J.K. Rowling is eager to tell a judge this week that one of her biggest fans is in fantasyland if he believes a “Harry Potter” encyclopedia he plans to publish does not violate her copyrights.

The showdown between Rowling and Steven Vander Ark is scheduled to last most of the week in U.S. District Court in Manhattan.

Rowling is scheduled to testify Monday in a trial that is sure to generate huge interest among Harry Potter fans and the public. Her lawyer has arranged with the judge to have a private security guard for Rowling in the courtroom and for the author to spend breaks in the seclusion of a jury room — away from any die-hard Potter fans in attendance.

The trial comes eight months after Rowling published her seventh and final book in the widely popular Harry Potter series. The books have been published in 64 languages, sold more than 400 million copies and spawned a film franchise that has pulled in \$4.5 billion at the worldwide box office.

Rowling brought the lawsuit last year against Vander Ark’s publisher, RDR Books, to stop publication of the “Harry Potter Lexicon.”

Rowling is actually a big fan of the Harry Potter Lexicon Web site that Vander Ark runs. But she draws the line when it comes to publishing the book and charging \$24.95. She also said it fails to include any of the commentary and discussion that enrich the Web site and calls it “nothing more than a rearrangement” of her own material.

World

**BAGHDAD** — An Iraqi judicial panel dismissed the last remaining criminal allegation against Associated Press photographer Bilal Hussein on Sunday and ordered him released from custody, two years and one day after he was detained by the U.S. military.

The committee of three judges and a prosecutor of the Federal Appeals Court granted amnesty to Hussein, 36, saying there should be no further action on allegations that he may have had improper contacts with insurgents who had killed an Italian citizen, Salvatore Santoro.

In December 2004, Hussein and two other journalists were stopped by armed men and taken at gunpoint to photograph the corpse, propped up with armed insurgents standing over it.

In the unanimous decision, the panel ordered a “halt to all legal proceedings” and said Hussein, who remains in U.S. custody, should be “released immediately” unless he is wanted in connection with something else.

Last week, the panel dismissed accusations under Iraq’s anti-terrorism law. Those accusations, part of a file given to an Iraqi investigative judge by the U.S. military, alleged Hussein had cooperated with terrorists and had possessed bomb-making materials in his house.

Throughout his incarceration, Hussein has maintained he is innocent and was only doing the work of a news photographer in a war zone.

— The Associated Press

TODAY



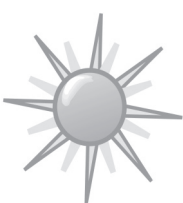
62 43

Tuesday



65 41

Wednesday



73 45

PIC OF THE DAY



THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Chi Omega members sell t-shirts during Greek Week.

Crime Report

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

**Malicious injury to personal property, 8 p.m.**

600 block of Sumter Street

Someone broke the rear window of the victim’s vehicle with a Texas Pete hot sauce bottle.

Estimated damage: \$500

**Reporting officer: W.D. Jones**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

**Malicious injury to real property, 2:21 a.m.**

502 Lincoln St.  
Someone threw a rock through the victim’s living room window.

Estimated damage: \$500

**Reporting officer: J.R. DuPree**

**Malicious injury to personal property, 8:05**

a.m.

300 Sumter St.  
Someone broke the driver’s side window of the victim’s car.

**Reporting officer: W.D. Jones**

**Malicious injury to real property, 5 p.m.**

502 Lincoln St.  
Someone damaged the bottom window at the Sigma Phi Epsilon house.

Estimated damage: \$300

**Reporting officer: M.E. Winnington**

**Breaking and entering into motor vehicle, petit larceny, 7 p.m.**

1300 Blossom St.  
Someone broke into the victim’s car and removed a stereo.

Estimated value: \$120

**Reporting officer: Thompson**

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

**Simple possession of marijuana, 12:10 a.m.**

Intersection of Blossom and Pickens streets

Police stopped someone for driving with his lights out. After police smelled marijuana, the subject surrendered two plastic bags of marijuana.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

**Disorderly conduct, 2:50 a.m.**

1900 Greene St.  
John Pennington attempted to flee from police who saw him cross between two cars of a stopped train. He was arrested when police found him under the influence of alcohol.

**Reporting officer: L.A. Diaz**

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The Daily Gamecock

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IN OUR OPINION

State needs to rethink recent program cuts

The State House is slicing and dicing the budget like an irreverent hibachi chef — but they need to take a harder look at where they’re cutting.

During the year, Gov. Mark Sanford and legislators were hailed for being forward-minded and progressive in funding the needs of our state. Our state universities and colleges rejoiced at the news of the endowed chairs programs and parents across the state breathed a sigh of relief when legislators mandated the replacement of all school buses within the next 15 years.

Legislators are cutting from the very programs that could take this state forward.

But with a bit of red ink during an emergency meeting, all that was undone. The biggest cuts came from the proposed bus system but other notables include \$19.9 million for a one percent raise for state workers, \$9 million for fuel purchases for school buses and \$6 million in payments to doctors treating Medicaid patients. These cuts come from legislators who attempted to give themselves a backdoor pay increase.

While university systems and students will feel the pinch, the state needs to seriously reconsider what it is doing. It is killing the people that make this state great by cutting raises and not funding doctors that take care of Medicaid patients. In addition, legislators are cutting from the very programs that could take this state forward both in recognition and revenue.

Last minute slashing will do nothing but leave us with a shredded mess of a state.

CORRECTIONS

In Friday’s The Mix section, the Colbie Caillat concert is not open to the public. Students need a ticket to enter.

We regret the error. If you see an error in today’s paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at [gamecockopinions@sc.edu](mailto:gamecockopinions@sc.edu).

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

Voice your opinion on message boards at [www.dailygamecock.com](http://www.dailygamecock.com) or send letters to the editor at [gamecockopinions@sc.edu](mailto:gamecockopinions@sc.edu).

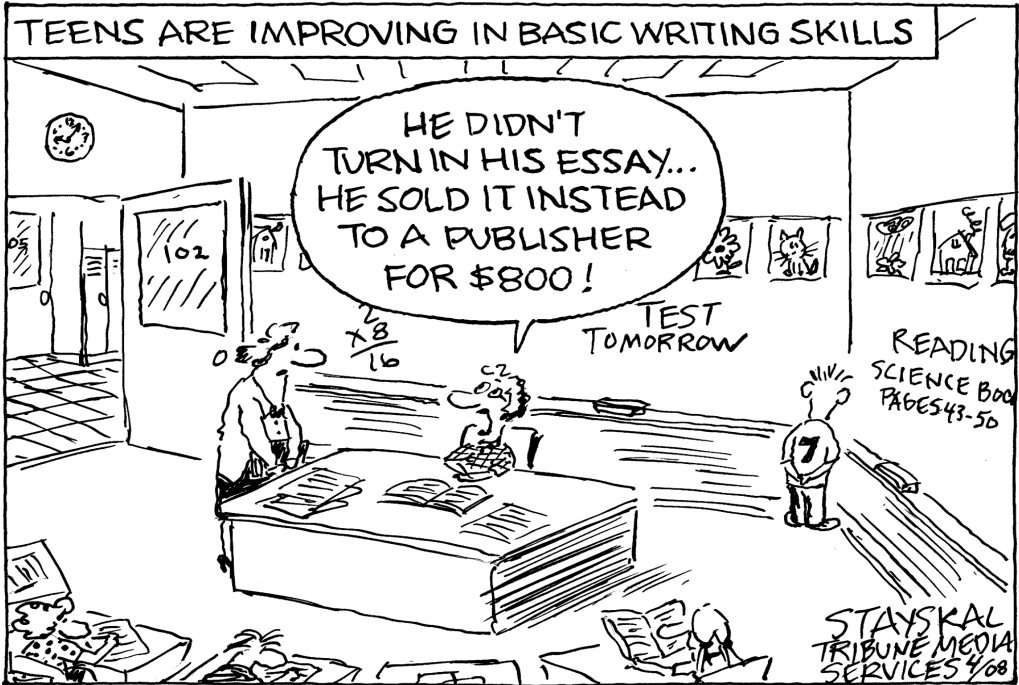
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PLEADING THE FIRST

Lesson from MacWorld: Back up files

Apple problems prove looks aren’t everything, reliability is important

That’s the one lesson I’ve taken away from the past year’s experiences with my laptop computer. I do not consider myself tech-savvy — I couldn’t tell you the difference between a teraflop and a floppy drive — but I do know better than to blindly rely on a folding plastic box.

In a moment of weakness last fall, I bought into the hype and chose the standard-model MacBook. “That thing will never crash,” my friends all said. I hear people said the same thing about the Titanic.

Of course it broke. It’s a computer. No matter how you spin it, or how cute you make it look, it’s still more or less the same thing as your average PC.

For a baseline user like myself (I really only needed it for typing documents and accessing the Web), the Apple vs. PC debate seems about as futile as Pepsi vs. Coke. Sure, you may have a slight preference one way or the other, but there can’t be an objective winner.



PAUL BOWERS  
First-year print journalism student

My point is that, whether you’re on a Mac or a Dell or whatever it is the kids are into these days, you need to have a Plan B. Ever since my hard drive inexplicably cooked itself last semester and I had to get it replaced, I have been backing up my documents on at least a monthly basis.

I can fit all of my important Word files — including class notes, essays, poems, articles and a novel in progress — on a 512-MB flash drive that Staples sells for \$10. If you’ve got more to store, an external hard drive might be a wise choice. Some sites offer backup space online; this is probably the safest move, provided you can afford the service.

Last week, when my second hard drive committed ritual suicide, I was prepared. Just days before, I had backed everything up. Now my only problem is wading through Apple’s customer

“service” process to get the computer fixed.

In a way, I’m almost grateful that my Mac bailed on me. It reminded me why I can’t trust the thing.

I never want to get to the point where I can’t function without my laptop. I never want to adopt the Consumer Gospel According to Steve Jobs. I never want to forget that, in the long run, all the things we accumulate will fall prey to moths, rust and obsolescence.

And so begins my involuntary sort of Lent. I’m commencing the sprint to the end of the semester while foregoing the luxury of my personal computer.

I’ll be using the computer lab in the Thomas Cooper Library to type up research papers, and I’ll be taking notes with the old-fashioned Bic 1.0 word processor.

With no access to Facebook or Youtube in my room, who knows? Maybe, between the hours I spend studying and writing and researching and banging my head against a wall, I’ll even step outside and enjoy the weather.

IN YOUR OPINION

I would like to express my sincere thankfulness to the students at USC for their gift to my son Taylor.

The blood drive on his birthday collected about 50 pints of blood, or gifts, for the community of Columbia. We could’ve done many more, if not that the bloodmobile needed to get to Charleston that evening! I am impressed in how much the students are willing to give of themselves for someone else, my son, and a stranger who will receive the blood they donated. It’s not like giving blood is like a kissing booth- it comes with a price and you all bore up under the pain for something bigger than yourselves.

Be proud of your student body, of yourselves- you are a body of many coming together for one cause. Taylor loved his school, the friends he was meeting every day, the classes and after being there all day I know why. Such an environment of joy and community- a family. I thank you all too for your kind words, thoughts and prayers over the past months. Taylor left me with a lot of friends too, and I am richer for knowing and meeting you all.

The hole he left with

us all can never be filled or forgotten, I ask you keep his spirit alive in the way he lived life. Loyalty, integrity, happiness in small things, friend to everyone, and a big dose of random fun and practical joking! Life is precious and fragile; never neglect a chance to tell someone how you feel. Tomorrow is not promised. Use every day you have to make a difference. Thank you for making a difference on March 24, 2008.

Happy birthday Taylor, from all your friends!  
*Teresa Cotbran*

Just when you thought it was safe... In the past year or two we’ve had quite a few issues with school violence, especially at the high school and college level. Massacres such as Virginia Tech, shootings at both Auburn and UNC, and countless shootings have taken place in high schools.

kids are going through one of the largest transitions of their life and growing and changing the most, they can now cap that stress with a nice handgun.

I personally have my issues with gun ownership. I have been able to hold my tongue however, when some of my 21 and over friends of friends have decided it’d be a good idea to buy one. But I can’t really sit quietly when someone younger than me is allowed to own a gun now. There are a bunch of crazy people out there.

Here’s something for you to chew on if you think it’s a good idea for just anyone to own weapons. There’s a tow truck driving down the street in front of you in downtown Columbia. Suddenly, something white falls out of the back of the tow truck and the driver frantically stops the vehicle to retrieve the item. Why would he want to conceal it so badly?

Because it’s a Klan hat; a white, pointed hat, with two slits for his eyes. The man is in a panic for fear someone may see. This happened to my boyfriend, on Tuesday morning. I have an idea, let’s give this man a gun. Oh, and his 18-year-old son too.

*Brittany Braddock*  
First-year media arts student

‘The Vent’ laughable part of beer contrivance

Coors Light commercials, marketing strategies rely on ridiculous, dumb claims

You may have seen the new Coors Light TV commercial featuring two guys who get together and “vent” (translation: “drink beer”) all day. The release of this ad

has coincided with the arrival of Coors’ latest gimmick ... er, innovation.

Coors Light cans now come with a wider mouth and an indentation (“vent”) near the opening. The result, claims Coors, is a “smooth, refreshing pour.” That, and a secret, guys-only codeword that lets you and your pals booze the day away while your silly girlfriends are none the wiser.

The Vent is only the latest in a long series of Coors Light marketing absurdities. This is the company that brought us such non sequiturs as “frost-brewed” (there is no such thing; all beer is brewed by boiling) and “the coldest-tasting beer on the planet” (what does “cold” taste like?). This time around, The Vent leaves us to wonder, what exactly is a “refreshing pour?” Perhaps a non-refreshing pour would be one that, say, deposits beer at your feet than down your throat.

In recent years, it hasn’t been hard to figure out what Coors Light’s marketing strategy is (“Our Beer is Cold”); it’s just been a little difficult to figure out why the Coors marketing gurus have pegged their company’s fortunes on convincing us Coors Light somehow benefits more than any other brew from that marvel known as refrigeration. And given what we know about the relationship between low temperatures and flavor suppression, what should it tell us that the folks at Coors urge us to drink their beer as close to freezing as possible?

Now today, The Vent represents a wrinkle in Coors Light’s marketing scheme, for it does not, alas, have any effect upon the beer’s temperature. So what gives? It seems Coors has identified a second component to refreshability: sending beer down your gullet with maximum expediency.

This move could backfire. Consumers may begin to wonder whether Coors is starting to waver from their previously hard-line commitment to all things cold.

Still, perhaps most amazing about The Vent is that, as laughable as it is, it’s probably the most meaningful of Coors’ marketing contrivances. There is validity to the notion of generating a smoother pour by letting air in to displace those draining suds. Ever heard of shot gunning? Whether or not the overager beer drinker can seal off and thus neutralize The Vent by applying just a little too much pressure with those thirsty lips remains to be seen.

But here’s a less novel suggestion for anyone who wants to let air in while drinking, and one that wouldn’t require untold dollars in marketing: Try a damn glass.



BRAD PETIT  
First-year graduate student



# Anime gathering generates crowd

*USC club's first NashiCon features Japanese culture lectures, costume contest, video games*

Thomas Maluck  
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Last Saturday, Gambrell Hall was transformed into a haven for appreciation of Japanese pop culture for the first NashiCon, hosted by USC's anime club Nashi.

The event's unexpectedly huge popularity resulted in 204 attendees arriving from different reaches of South Carolina and Georgia. The compelling factor behind NashiCon was how it was fueled, attended and operated on pure fandom.

Some came to watch and be introduced to Japanese animation new and old: A pair of classrooms fitted with projectors showed programs as old as the 1980's cartoon "Maison Ikkoku" and as recent as "Kamen Rider Den O 2007."

Most people in the crowd wanted to celebrate their fandom in one of the many panels conducted among three floors of Gambrell. The speakers, all volunteers, would sometimes lecture on Japanese culture, such as in the panel titled "Points of Interest in Japan," which gave an overview of famous districts, fashions and stores in Japan, and advice for tourists.

By and large, however, attendees migrated between classrooms to celebrate what they already knew. The panel "... And They're All Out of Gum" led a discussion between its two hosts and a packed room about character archetypes in their favorite series, especially "what makes a badass."

Going deeper into the fandom were those who played their favorite characters in costume, or cosplayers. Christine Andrews, a senior from St. Francis Xavier High, was surprised how many people came in costume. She dressed in a blue suit with spiked hair, like video game character Phoenix Wright.

"This isn't as large as other cons I've been to, but it's still really fun," she said. "It's closer than other conventions, and much more convenient."

Later, alter egos assembled for the Cosplay Contest, which gave awards for being the most in character and putting the most effort into making one's costume.

Other competitions were set up in game rooms, where popular titles "Halo" and "Guitar Hero" shared space with multiple anime-based games such as "Melly Blood" and "Naruto." A "Super Smash Bros. Brawl" tournament drew a horde of fighters ready to win one-on-one or four-person



Lizzy Sheppard/ THE DAILY GAMECOCK

**Edward Hartman, a fourth semester Midlands Tech associate and arts student, and Kelsey Camach, a rising freshman for USC, show off their Dance Dance Revolution skills at the first NashiCon Anime Convention on Saturday afternoon.**

brawls.

Budding USC artists as well as visitors from out of state set up shop in the Artists Alley. Cari Corene, a fourth-year sequential arts student from the Savannah College of Art and Design, made a pretty penny selling bookmarks and buttons featuring illustrations of people's favorite anime characters. Her profits will serve as "a stepping stone to Otakon," but "I'd love to return for NashiCon 2009," Corene said.

The all-volunteer staff was matched in enthusiasm by the

crowd. Kimberly Poulter, who led a panel of cosplay advice, acknowledged NashiCon's open-ended structure.

"We let anyone present a panel as long as they were willing to put in the effort," Poulter said.

NashiCon's organizers say plans for NashiCon 2009 start immediately. For 2008, memories of the all-day rush will have to do.

*Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@sc.edu*



From their homepage The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus

**Red Jumpsuit Apparatus combines five distinct styles for their new album due this winter.**

## Red Jumpsuit Apparatus plans acoustic show today

*Band raises awareness for teen suicide, depression, plans CD winter release*

Drew Zolides  
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Ever wonder what happened to that kid who played tuba in the high school band? He might have become the lead singer for a platinum record-holding alternative rock band.

This is the case for Ronnie Winter, lead singer of The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, called RJA by some. He and his fellow bandmates have created and appreciated music for most of their lives.

But being in a band is a collaborative effort.

"You have five guys with five different tastes in music," Winter said.

It is when you put them all together that you get a unique sound, something RJA is praised for having. Their music has been

described as emo, punk, screamo and even pop.

These five musical tastes will combine yet again when their new album comes out this winter. For the record, the band's second major release following 2006's highly successful "Don't You Fake It," Ronnie said they are looking for each song to be different, a technique used on the first album.

"It is a way to get everything you want to do musically in one [record]," he said.

The success of the first album didn't really change how RJA decided to make music.

After taking three months off to write, RJA returned home to Middleburg, Fla., to record its next record, in the garage of one of the band members.

"You like doing it like that. It stays with you," Winter said.

Still recording in a garage is a sure sign of a band's humility. But RJA

has done more than just that. Winter and the band have participated in several benefit concerts, like the Take Action! Tour, which raises awareness for teen suicide and depression. They have even founded their own charity, The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus Guardian Angel Alliance, which Winter describes as "a way for [RJA] to do anything we want" and "have more direct control over who we help."

Their concern for awareness of issues important to them extends far beyond charities and benefit concerts. Their 2006 breakout single "Face Down" is written about Ronnie's mother, who was the victim of domestic violence at the hands of his father. The song, along with the band, has helped raise money for the Guardian Angel Alliance, which has donated over \$19,000 to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

For its current tour, the

**RJA • 6**

## Film festival winners chosen

**Michael McClendon garners first place award**

Robert Johnson  
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Nickelodeon has been filled with excited spectators who gathered to watch this year's entries for the Indies Grits Film Festival, which featured a wide range of flicks created in the Southeastern states. On Saturday night, the winners of the film festival were presented their proud plaques, and among those winners was USC first-year

media arts student Michael McClendon.

He received the Young Grit Award for his three-minute-long music video/drama "Robot High School."

While the film indeed takes place in a school for robots, the main character becomes frustrated with his Orwellian environment and chooses to rebel against his teachers rather than be a mindless automaton. The video was also well received by My Robot Friend, the musical artist who wrote the Robot High School song.

The Top Grit Winner was Joe Change, who



directed Neutral, a distinctive feature-length piece that involved a number of short situations

**GRITS • 6**

## Koger hosts Indian dance teams

**Aag Ki Raat Night of Fire allows clubs from eight schools to showcase skills**

Tas Anjarwalla  
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

USC's Indian Cultural Exchange, or ICE, held its second official dance competition, Aag Ki Raat Night of Fire, on Saturday. The Koger Center was filled with Indians from as far as the Midwest who came to show off their dancing skills. Eight dance teams from various schools ranging from East Carolina to Ohio competed for a grand prize of \$1,000.

The ICE executive board worked hard to put this competition together.

"In all this year the show was a success, not only because we had a full audience, but because everyone enjoyed the show," said ICE President Dhara Patel, fifth-year pharmacy student. People are always curious to know why we do different rituals, and as an organization, we (ICE) will have events to teach you about it and let you experience it on your own."

The competition was a display of three different styles of Indian Dance—Rass/Garba, Bhangra and Fusion.

"It was really great. The performances were very creative," said Omar Ghazi, a second-year chemistry student. "I liked the incorporation of various dance styles. I came because I like Indian music and I was just interested."

Patel said the group puts on the show to teach people about Indian culture while

raising money for charity.

"Not only does it show the talent of the students here, but it also gives us a chance to meet people from different schools," Patel said.

The Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation is a non-profit organization that creates opportunity for education in rural India. Ekal Vidyalaya aims to eliminate illiteracy by 2012.

"Last year, we sold over 800 tickets and donated enough money to the foundation to fund three different schools," Patel said. "This year, it was even more."

The crowd was huge, rowdy and extremely enthusiastic as it cheered on its favorite dance teams. Duke University dominated second and third place. The teams' prizes were \$500 and \$250, respectively.

Ohio State University's Lil' Raascals received first place. Their sparkly traditional Indian garb and dancing wowed the judges.

The masters of ceremony, Nikesh Amin, a third-year political science student, and Misha Beram, a second-year marketing student, managed to pull off what otherwise could have been a corny performance. They delivered some funny commentary on Indian lifestyle that everyone on the audience, whether they are or not, could appreciate.

Be sure to look out next year for ICE's Aag Ki Raat Night of Fire.

*Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@sc.edu*



RJA • Continued from 5

band decided to play all acoustic shows. Ronnie and the band have “wanted to do this for a long time.”

He says he enjoys the smaller, more intimate venues and getting closer to their core fans. Plus, “all the songs were originally written acoustic ... so it just makes sense.”

As it stands right now, Ronnie’s tuba-playing days might not be over just yet. He hopes that one day he might get to play another orchestra gig. Until then, he hopes to play with Red Jumpsuit Apparatus until they are “old and gray.”

The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus is playing an acoustic show at 8 p.m. today at Headliners.

Comments on this story? E-mail [gamecockfeatures@sc.edu](mailto:gamecockfeatures@sc.edu)

## Kagan begins ‘media company’ after CNN breaks off contract

**Ex-anchor launches inspirational Web site, book, TV documentaries**

David Bauder  
*The Associated Press*

**NEW YORK** — In a competitive and youth-obsessed business, most everyone gets The Call sometime. For ex-CNN daytime anchor Daryn Kagan, it came in January 2006.

She was brought into an office and told that CNN would not renew her contract when it expired at the end of the year. Kagan was lucky in one sense — she wasn’t escorted out that day by security — but by the

first of September, she was gone.

Left with a personal crisis sadly familiar to many, Kagan reinvented herself with a Web site devoted to telling inspirational stories. With a book that went on sale Tuesday, two TV documentaries and a planned show for broadcast, she’s trying to build an empire.

“I don’t have a Web site,” she says now. “I have a media company.”

DarynKagan.com explodes onto the screen in a sunburst of orange, yellow and red. She has a centerpiece story of the day and an archive of dozens more: a man with two amputated legs who competed in an Ironman triathlon; a woman who sends donated breast

milk to Africa; a man who rehabilitated Michael Vick’s pit bulls; a coffee shop worker who donated a kidney to a regular customer.

They’re the kinds of stories she loved doing for television. They didn’t have the import of war and peace but, she said, were “the ones that made my heart go zing.”

Kagan was initially inspired by former NBC correspondent Kevin Sites’ Web site about war zones. At first, she wanted to sell the idea to Yahoo!. After the company passed, Kagan decided to do it herself from her Atlanta home.

Most of the story ideas for DarynKagan.com (“show the world what’s possible” is the motto) come from readers, who are encouraged to write in. The site is not religious, although Kagan, who is Jewish, said she believes the mainstream

media does a poor job of covering spiritual matters that are an important part of many people’s lives.

They’re the type of stories many hard-bitten journalists roll their eyes at. Kagan said it’s an important part of the media mix.

“If you’re really invested in feeling bad about the world, there are a lot of media outlets out there that you can turn to,” she said.

There were certain serendipities along the way to launch. When she went to register the domain name DarynKagan.com, she found it had already been claimed by a cybersquatter, a person who registers names for Web sites in the hope that someone will eventually pay big money to acquire the rights. Kagan called the Florida man who had bought it, and after they talked he volunteered to give it to her. For free.

An old friend from elementary school signed up as her publicist.

She’s also taken advantage of new technology, like Voxant.com, a Web site that distributes her stories elsewhere online. A company that sells advertising to many Web sites also does it for her, meaning she doesn’t have to hunt for that support herself.

While CNN would likely send a camera crew if it was doing a story on the Minnesota woman who sends breast milk to Africa, Kagan sends instructions to interview subjects to set up their own video camera. She tells them to put a phone on their lap and switch it to speaker, and respond to the questions she asks them. That’s how she interviewed Desmond Tutu, and Tony LaRussa after the St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series, too.

GRITS • Continued from 5

with quirky exchanges between unusual characters. Only in this film would a high school teacher take it upon himself to educate a vandal in the art of lying his way out of trouble.

Other Grit contestants had equally innovative and unique concepts behind them, such as Dornstar TV’s over-the-top high-five moment and a strange over-the-top re-enactment of a theoretical slaying of Kurt Cobain involving bunnies and Bratz dolls. In addition to the traditional films, there were live music/video and experimental films.

Film festival director Andy Smith described the difference between the Indie Grits Film Festival and other more famous film festivals through a sports metaphor. He claims that typical film festivals are like minor league baseball events in which each filmmaker is like a hopeful team player, trying to get picked for the major leagues. Clearly, the major league of the film world would be Hollywood.

Indie Grits is the exception to this rule. “We are the anarchic softball league,” Smith said. “We do it for the love of the game.”

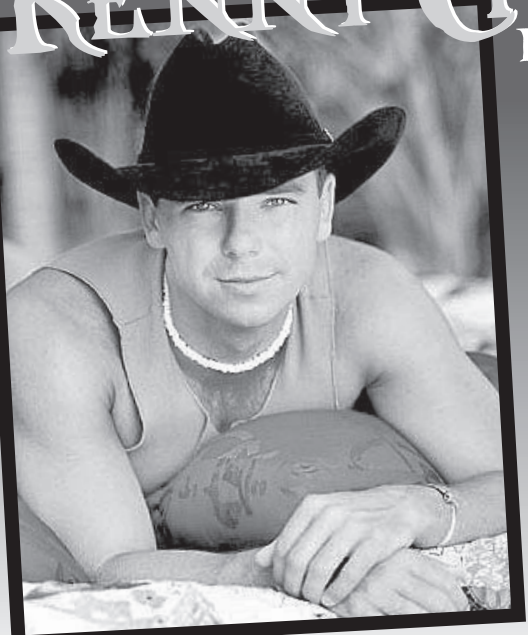
It is important to note that this statement does not imply that Indie Grits is an inferior film festival, but emphasizes its celebration as film as an art form.

“We weren’t going to compromise on quality,” Smith said.

One particular North Carolinian contestant, Matthew Long, is starting to look for opportunities in Los Angeles as a screenwriter. He hopes that his special brand of “grunge noir” will become a big hit, with its numerous references to classic crime movies and bands like Nirvana. However, he still sees himself working in the Southeast, at least from time to time.

“I have all my connections in North Carolina, and I still want to come back. It’s easier, if you’re making a personal film,” Long said.

Comments on this story? E-mail [gamecockfeatures@sc.edu](mailto:gamecockfeatures@sc.edu)




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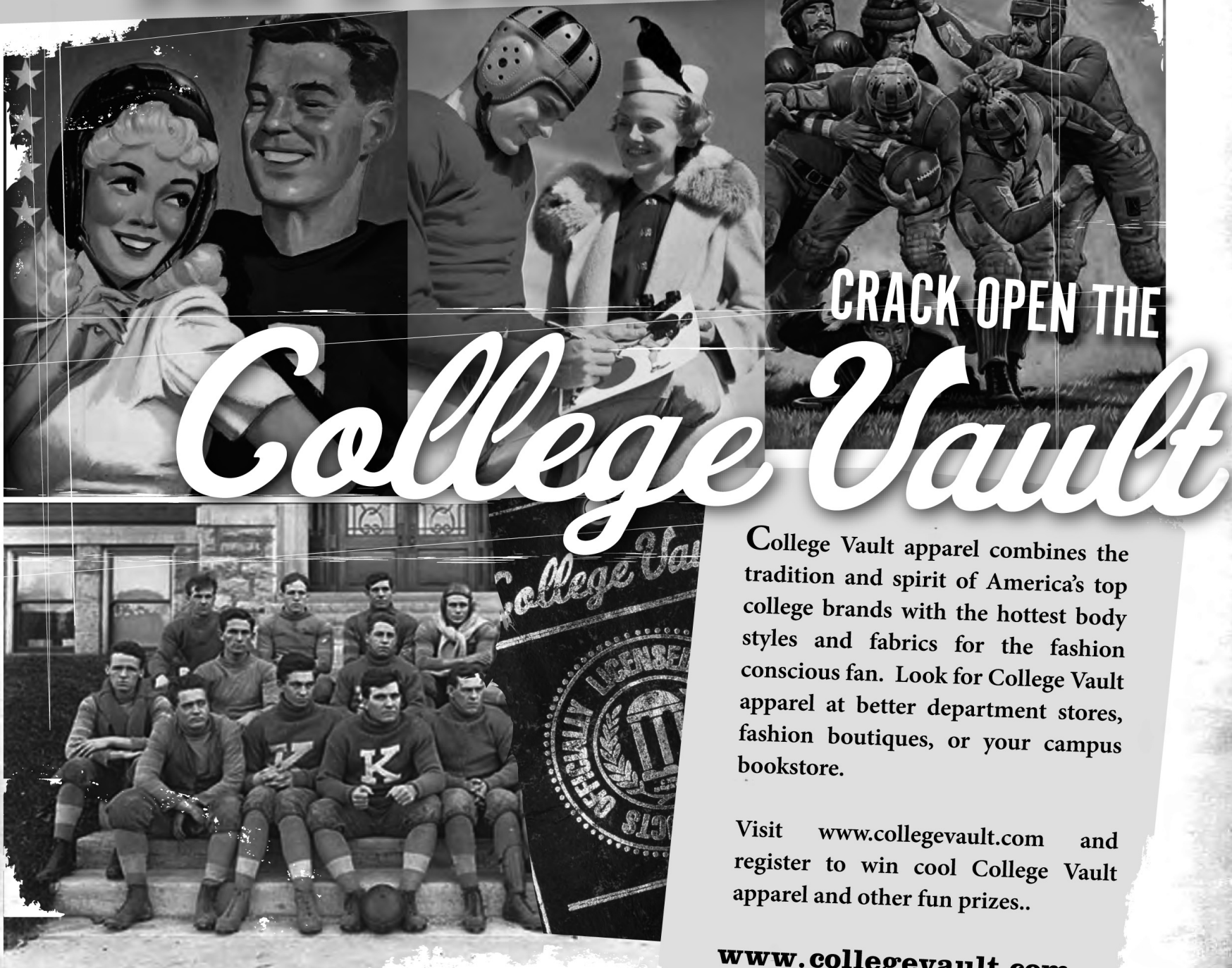
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Marshall  
Maryland  
Miami  
Michigan  
Mississippi  
Missouri  
Montana  
Nebraska  
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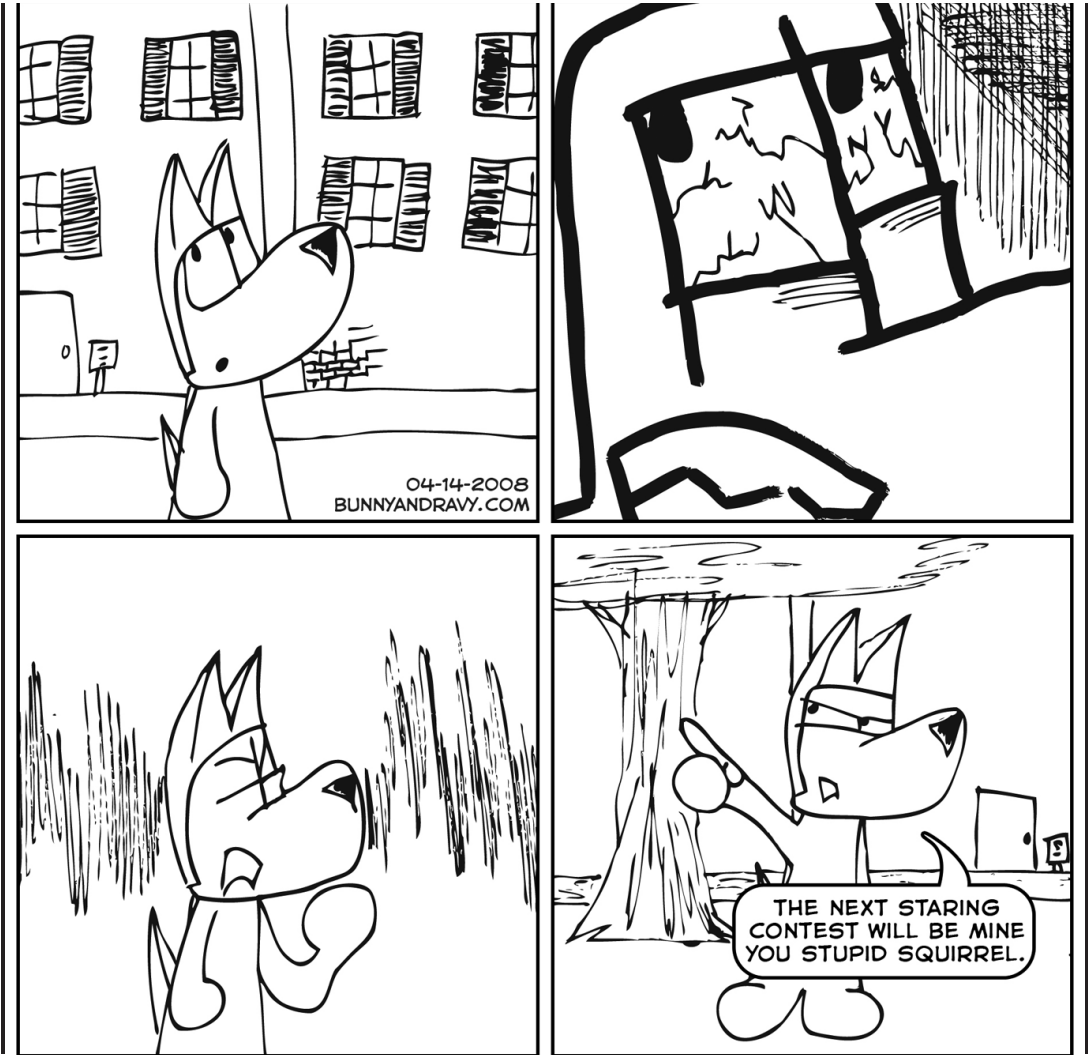
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HOROSCOPES

**ARIES** An unexpected invitation may this week create an odd ethical dilemma. After Tuesday, expect new friends or potential lovers to be briefly insensitive to your family needs. **TAURUS** Job routines may be temporarily complicated this week by workplace power struggles. Older colleagues will publicly challenge the skills or attitudes of others. **GEMINI** Family debate will this week reveal important social information. New relationships may need to be temporarily sidelined in order to maintain harmony. **CANCER** Managers and older colleagues may strongly disagree on new procedures this week. Passionate outbursts, ongoing criticism and private tensions can be expected in the workplace.

**LEO** Close friends may this week challenge your recent romantic or lifestyle choices. Creative outlets, public events or quick progress in new relationships may trigger private doubts. **VIRGO** Over the next few days, authority figures may request completed duties, consistent dedication and finalized documents. Random mistakes will challenge their patience. **LIBRA** Long-term friends may be unusually thoughtful or easily irritated by new social information this week. Home changes or complex family obligations will now drain emotional resources. **SCORPIO** Legal errors, controversial purchases and minor financial delays may this week briefly increase family tensions. Short-term disagreements

may be unavoidable. **SAGITTARIUS** Relatives or roommates may now ask for detailed descriptions of social or romantic goals. Unexpected emotional triangles may be at issue. **CAPRICORN** Parent/child relationships may be mildly strained over the next three days. Power struggles, daily schedules or social rules may be a central theme. **AQUARIUS** Creative activities, artistic awareness and unusual forms of entertainment will captivate attention this week. Romantic regret will now fade. **PISCES** Private flirtations are flattering but potentially controversial this week. Workplace romance and new friendships may soon introduce unexpected complications.

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By The Mephram Group

4/14/08

Level **1** 2 3 4

How to Play

Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution for 4/11/08

D	E	E	P	G	A	S	H	V	I	B	E	S
E	T	A	L	O	S	L	O	I	S	E	R	E
A	U	R	A	L	E	A	R	C	A	D	R	E
F	I	N	N	E	G	A	N	S	W	A	K	E
				T	W	O		G	E	E	R	V
D	U	D	E	T	C		S	E	A	M	I	L
E	V	I	L	H	O	S	E	G	A	L	B	A
F	U	N	E	R	A	L	I	N	B	E	R	L
O	L	I	V	E	O	R	S	O	K	E	N	O
R	A	N	O	V	E	R	E	B	B	D	I	O
M	E	G	A	S	A	P		D	A	M		
				C	E	M	E	T	E	R	Y	R
S	C	A	L	P		U	R	A	L		N	O
A	E	R	I	E		R	I	G	A		O	G
P	O	S	E	D		A	L	A	N		R	E

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# the scene at USC

**COLBIE CAILLAT**  
8 p.m., Free with Student ID and ticket  
Koger Center for the Arts



**TODAY**

**RED JUMPSUIT APPARATUS**  
7 p.m., \$13  
Headliners, 700 Gervais St.

**EURO MOTO CLUB**  
8 p.m., Free  
Art Bar, 1211 Park St.

**HIP HOP: BEYOND BEATS AND RHYMES**  
7 p.m., \$5.50  
Nickelodeon Theater, 937 Main St.

**PETER KOLKAY FACULTY BASSOON RECITAL**  
7:30 p.m., Free  
USC School of Music Recital Hall

**SPRING FOR ART! EXHIBITION**  
8 a.m. — 5 p.m., \$50  
McKissick Museum

**BURKINA ELECTRIC**  
2 p.m. Free  
Russell House Patio


**TOMORROW**

**ACOUSTIC CAFÉ**  
9:30 p.m., Free  
Starbucks in the University Bookstore

**TAXI TO THE DARK SIDE**  
6 p.m. and 8 p.m., \$5.50  
Nickelodeon Theater, 937 Main St.

## Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams 4/14/08

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### ACROSS

1 Sphere of power

4 Shillong's state

9 Adagio, allegro, etc.

14 Part of mph

15 Florida city

16 King's territory

17 Bar

20 Audiophile's setup

21 Street-fighter's blade

22 Gender

23 Basics

25 Go lickety-split

27 Bar

34 Chum

35 Tint

36 Closet type

37 Longfellow's bell town

39 Go-ahead

41 Tater

42 Tack room gear

44 \_\_ Loa volcano

46 Switchback curve

47 Bar

50 Uh-huh

51 Advocate

52 "Dune" composer Brian

55 High shots

58 Code for one-on-one combat

62 Bar

65 Lennon's "Instant \_\_"

66 On guard

67 Fr. woman's title

68 Simple weapon

69 The March King

70 Stand in the way

### DOWN

1 Untitled work

2 Monthly payment

3 Semisoft cheese

4 Of a singlecelled organism

5 Hot Sahara winds

6 "Casablanca" pianist

7 Writer Kingsley

8 Ho Chi \_\_ City

9 Insignificant

10 Med. printout

11 Provides with a crew

12 Knee-bending movement

13 Big name in big pictures

18 Monks' titles

19 Magnitude

24 Genoese specialty

26 Greek letters

27 San \_\_, CA

28 First Popecanonized saint

29 True blue

30 Crewman under Capt. Kirk

31 Dismantle

### Solutions from 4/11/08

D	E	E	P	G	A	S	H	V	I	B	E	S
E	T	A	L	O	S	L	O	I	S	E	R	E
A	U	R	A	L	E	A	R	C	A	D	R	E
F	I	N	N	E	G	A	N	S	W	A	K	E
				T	W	O		G	E	E	R	V
D	U	D	E	T	C		S	E	A	M	I	L
E	V	I	L	H	O	S	E	G	A	L	B	A
F	U	N	E	R	A	L	I	N	B	E	R	L
O	L	I	V	E	O	R	S	O	K	E	N	O
R	A	N	O	V	E	R	E	B	B	D	I	O
M	E	G	A	S	A	P		D	A	M		
				C	E	M	E	T	E	R	Y	R
S	C	A	L	P		U	R	A	L		N	O
A	E	R	I	E		R	I	G	A		O	G
P	O	S	E	D		A	L	A	N		R	E

mortise joints

32 Try it again

33 Extremes

34 Paris greenery

38 Black as night

40 As commanded

43 Of constellations

45 Maine's capital

48 Each

49 Maiden name indicators

52 Moose cousins

53 Tidal situation

54 Made-up monster

56 Bikini parts

57 Go it alone

59 An arm or a leg

60 \_\_ Linda, CA

61 Unique person

63 Doctors' org.

64 Pot-au\_\_



# USC keeps sweeping along

*Gamecocks hold on in final game for another key SEC series victory*

Drew Lattier  
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The South Carolina baseball team heads to the plains of Auburn, Ala., as it squares off against the Auburn Tigers in a critical SEC three-game series this weekend.

The Gamecocks (22-10, 6-6) are in dire need of pulling off a series win on the road as USC is coming off a recent sweep at the hands of the Georgia Bulldogs last weekend.

Currently, USC is in fifth place in the SEC Eastern division but could finish the weekend as high as second.

“You’re going to have some ups and down in conference, no question about it,” said coach Ray Tanner. “That was a tough weekend for us. We’ve got to do our best to try to win this series.”

Despite last weekend’s disappointing losses, Carolina rebounded with two solid victories during the week. On Tuesday, freshman Sam Dyson picked up his third victory of the season as USC defeated Western Carolina 9-6. On Wednesday, senior right-hander Nick Godwin also picked up his third victory of the year with a dominating performance against the Clemson Tigers as Carolina took a 3-0 lead in the series.

Meanwhile, Auburn (22-12, 6-6) is enjoying a little more success as of late.

The Tigers swept Arkansas last weekend in SEC play and picked up two victories during the week.

“We did have two wins in the midweek and played much better and scored some runs,” Tanner said. “And certainly (we’re) going on the road this weekend at Auburn against a team that’s probably playing their best baseball of the season.”

Trying to stop the Tigers’ hot play will be juniors Justin Smoak and James Darnell. The duo highlighted USC’s victory over Clemson on Wednesday evening as Darnell went 4-4 with two home runs and five RBIs while Smoak hit a two-run blast in the first inning, allowing the Goose Creek native to tie Hank Small on the all-time home run list with 48.

“It’s just one of those things that’s going to happen when it happens, and it just so happened last night,” Smoak said of his record-tying home run.

Also of note is that Darnell’s two-home-run performance was the third baseman’s third multi-home-run game of the season.

Trying to shut down the Tigers will be a starting rotation of Mike Cisco, Will Atwood and Blake Cooper.

The trio pitched valiantly against the Bulldogs in Athens last weekend, giving up only 10 runs in the three games, but received little offensive support.



Sam Bennett / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

**USC first baseman Justin Smoak wasted no time in rewriting the history as he set the Carolina record for career home runs with No. 48 in the first game against Auburn.**

“Our pitching staff has done a good job all year, and they’ve done it for a long period of time,” Tanner said. “So hopefully they can remain consistent.”

In the first game today at 7 p.m., Cisco (4-1, 4.30 ERA) will face off against

freshman southpaw Grant Dayton (4-1, 3.29).

On Saturday, junior Will Atwood (3-1, 3.71) will get the start against another freshman southpaw — Cory Luckie (4-3, 3.31).

Closing out the series for Carolina will be sophomore

Blake Cooper (3-3, 3.32), who will be squaring off against another Auburn freshman, this time in the form of Bradley Hendrix (1-0, 4.95).

*Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocksportspage@sc.edu*

## SHOW PUTS MYTHS TO BED

**Television program smashes long held mindset for athletes**

The television show “Sport Science,” which airs on the Fox Sports Network, tries to settle different sports-related debates by using science to analyze the issues.

On different episodes they

have tested out who hits the hardest in all of sports (turns out that a body slam from MMA fighter Quentin “Rampage” Jackson is harder than a blind-side sack by NFL linebacker Joey Porter), if there is such a thing as hang-time for slam-dunkers (apparently it’s a myth), and if it’s possible to re-create Randy Johnson’s fastball that hit a pigeon in mid-flight (there’s a one in 19 billion chance of it happening again).

Probably the most interesting study that they have done though is not a topic you are going to find in most mainstream science magazines. The scientists on “Sport Science” did a study to determine if abstaining from sexual activity really does help improve the performance of an athlete.

They introduced this experiment by talking about how many professional boxers are superstitious about having sex leading up to a fight. Many of them will abstain for weeks leading up to a big fight because they feel it will help them train and fight better.

To test this theory, the people at “Sport Science” had a professional boxer abstain from having sex with his girlfriend for a week. The scientists then brought him in to do different physical tests on him and test his performance levels. They had him run on a treadmill, lift weights and hit a punching bag as hard as he could.

After recording all the results, they sent him off to a hotel with his girlfriend for a few hours. After relieving what was probably a lot of sexual tension, they brought the boxer back in to the lab and had him run through all the different tests again.

After completing the tests a second time, the researchers revealed to the boxer that he had actually performed better in every activity after having sex. He ran faster, lifted more weight and punched harder than when he had abstained from sex for a week.

While the boxer was not surprised by the results, all of the researchers were shocked that he had exceeded his earlier performance. They found that the level of testosterone in his blood stream had increased tremendously, allowing him to perform even better.

**LOCKLEAR ● 9**



Sam Bennett / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

**USC’s Becky Martinez waits for a throw to try and tag out Mississippi State base runner Chelsea Bramlett. The Gamecocks had a seven-game winning streak snapped.**

## Win streak halted

**Carolina fails to put consistent offense together in three losses**

Sam Barker  
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The USC softball team, coming off a seven-game winning streak, dropped three consecutive games to SEC foes Mississippi State. The Bulldogs beat the Gamecocks 1-0 and 3-1 on Saturday, and 9-1 on Sunday.

The Gamecocks (20-18) were plagued by costly errors and inept offense, scoring only 2 runs over the course of weekend. Mississippi State (35-15) was powered by solid offense and spectacular pitching, especially by freshman Misty Flesher, who allowed

one run on four hits and struck out seven in the game on Sunday.

The first game of the double-header on Saturday had almost an hour-and-a-half rain delay, and Mississippi State scored immediately after the game resumed. The Bulldogs loaded the bases and subsequently scored after Brittany Bell singled to right field. Gamecock pitcher Melissa Hendon had a solid game, allowing one run off of seven hits, and striking out five.

The Gamecocks lost the second game on Saturday after three crucial errors in the first inning. The Bulldogs scored all three of their runs in the first inning. Freshman Jill Semento and senior Jessica Josker both had good outings for the Gamecocks, both going

2-3, with Semento hitting her fifth home run of the season.

The fielding woes continued to Sunday’s game, where three errors were again committed. The Bulldogs scored four runs in the second inning, thanks to a passed ball that scored Hayle Guess, and a bases loaded double by Ali Bainbridge. Sammie Jo Bailey added to the onslaught, hitting a solo home run in the third.

The Gamecocks cut the lead to four in the fourth, with Adele Voigt, Laura Mendes and Semento hitting consecutive singles to load the bases. Voigt scored later on Joskers fielders choice.

But the Bulldogs responded with two consecutive two-run

## Tennis team fails to find answers for UF

**Forfeits, tough opponent prove to be too much in home finale for USC**

Austin Collins  
STAFF WRITER

The fourth-ranked Florida Gators (18-1, 11-0 SEC) spoiled the South Carolina women’s tennis team’s season finale, dispatching the Gamecocks 4-0 in a shortened match Saturday afternoon at the USC Indoor Facility.

The match started outside at the Maxcy Gregg Tennis Center, but rain began to fall heavily early on during doubles play. Play was suspended and resumed approximately 30 minutes later at the Indoor Facility.

South Carolina (12-8, 5-6 SEC) forfeited the matches at No. 3 doubles and No. 6 singles because coach Arlo Elkins did not play Ana Zubori. The sophomore, who usually competes at No. 1 doubles and No. 2 singles, sat out in order to rest her injured knee for the SEC Tournament next week in Auburn, Ala.

Zubori’s absence forced all other USC players to be moved up a spot in the rotation. With the Gators having already taken the doubles No. 3 match because of the forfeit, the doubles point was sealed when Florida’s Megan Alexander and Lolita Frangulyan defeated South Carolina’s Megan McGavock and Suzanna Mansour 8-4 in No. 1 doubles.

Play at No. 2 doubles was suspended with Whitney

Benik and Csilla Borsanyi of Florida leading 7-2 against South Carolina’s Jelena Rajic and Natasa Vuckovic.

Already up 2-0 in the match after taking the doubles point and the forfeited point at No. 6 singles, the Gators needed just two victories at singles No. 1 through No. 5 to earn the match victory.

Florida’s Megan Alexander, the nation’s 106<sup>th</sup>-ranked player, defeated Suzanna Mansour 6-0, 6-4 at No. 3 singles for the Gators’ third point. Florida took the match’s fourth and deciding point at No. 5 singles when No. 95 Anastasia Revzina took down South Carolina’s lone senior, Megan McGavock, 6-3, 6-2.

The match was called after Revzina won at No. 5. When play was suspended, South Carolina’s Gira Schofield, No. 44 in the nation, was leading 6-4, 1-3 in No. 1 singles over Florida’s Julia Cohen, ranked No. 27 in the U.S.

At No. 4 singles, South Carolina freshman Jelena Rajic was in a close 5-7, 4-0 contest with No. 124 Whitney Benik of Floirda when the match was called. Play at No. 2 singles was barely underway with No. 32 Csilla Borsanyi of Florida up 1-0 in the first set against Natasa Vuckovic.

With the loss, the Gamecocks dropped to the nine seed in the SEC Tournament and will face eighth-seeded Auburn (15-8, 5-6 SEC) on Thursday at 2 p.m. The winner will advance to take on top-seeded Florida on Friday at 2 p.m.

*Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocksportspage@sc.edu*

**SOFTBALL ● 9**



# USC SHINES AT SPEC INVITE

*Carolina takes home  
three event titles from  
highly touted field*

Drew Lattier  
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The USC track and field team spent the weekend competing amongst some of the nation's top track programs at the Spec Towns National Invitational in Athens, Ga.

Teams from various conferences around the country travelled to the meet, including both Big 10 and Big East schools. The SEC was also well represented, primarily by the Florida Gators track program, one of the best in the country.

Given the stiff competition, the Gamecocks were able to produce winners in many events, both on the track and in the field.

"I think the team is in pretty good shape, we got some more regional qualifiers this weekend and had a good meet," said USC coach Curtis Frye.

With a few of the field events taking place Friday night, Carolina was well represented from the beginning. Senior Derek Pressley had an impressive performance taking first place in the triple jump. His jump of 50 feet and 10 inches was a season best and also a regional qualifying mark.

Saturday brought the bulk of the meet, where more Carolina athletes continued to shine. USC runners Brandi Cross and Porche Byrd went 1-2 in the open 400, grabbing their first regional times of the outdoor season. Cross, who held the fastest 400-meter time in the country for most of the indoor season, has been slow to start this season after having dental work done early in the season, followed by multiple periods of sickness.

"Brandi getting a win



Hye Eun Park / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

**USC sophomore Sallie Gurganus took home the pole vaulting title from this weekends Spec Towns National Invitational in Athens, Ga. Gurganus won the event with a jump of 12 feet and 7.5 inches, a season best for her.**

Saturday was important," Frye said. "We need her to be strong for later in the season, both individually and for the team."

Standout freshman Shalya Mahan continued to impress among high level competition despite her young age. Mahan finished second in the 100 meter dash with a time of 11.53 seconds, only bested by former USC runner Shalonda Solomon. Solomon chose to run professionally last year after her junior year at USC, and is currently training for the Olympics in Beijing this summer.

Sophomore Sallie Gurganus performed well for USC in field events, winning the pole vault with a jump of 12 feet and 7.5 inches. The winning mark was both a season best and regional qualifier for the pole vaulter.

On the men's side, Jason Richardson continued to run well as he has throughout the season. The hurdler finished

second in the 110-meter hurdles, and later took third in the 400-meter hurdles with his fastest time of the outdoor season at 50.64 seconds. Not far behind Richardson in the 400 was freshman Johnny Dutch in sixth place. Dutch continues to improve each meet and has tremendous potential for USC.

The USC runners put on a show in the open 400-meters, taking spots 2-3-4. The trio of Keith Hinnant, Ray Miley and Quentin Moore ran together throughout the race, all finishing within a gap of half a second.

The Gamecocks have this weekend off before travelling to the Penn. State relays the following weekend.

"We'll go light early in the week but towards the end of the week we can have some pretty tough workouts," Frye said.

*Comments on this story? E-mail  
gamecocksportspage@sc.edu*

## SOFTBALL ● Continued from 8

innings in the fifth and six, stretching the lead to 9-1. Hendon got the start again for Sunday's game, but allowed 7 runs in five innings before she was replaced by Krystle Robinson.

The Gamecocks travel to face SEC foes Alabama and Ole Miss, before returning home May 3 to play LSU. The SEC Tournament starts on May 8.

*Comments on this story? E-mail  
gamecocksportspage@sc.edu*

## LOCKLEAR ● Continued from 8

Watching the show, I found this entire study fascinating. While playing sports in high school, I heard the myth that if you abstained from any sort of sexual activity you would play better. I never really gave much thought to it though until it was actually tested on "Sport Science." It is amazing to see and hear the things that athletes will do just to get the slightest edge.

So for all the ladies out there, next time your boyfriend tries to tell you that he can't hang out the night before a big game because he won't play as well, you can tell him that science says he is full of it.

The tennis team will compete in the  
SEC Tournament on Thursday against Auburn  
at 3:00 p.m.

The winner will advance to take on top-seeded  
Florida on Friday at 2:00 p.m.

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